



Feasibility Study for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area

July 2012

Delta
Protection
Commission



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Final National Park Service Review (June 2012)

- “...The National Park Service (NPS) has reviewed the *Feasibility Study for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area* (June 2012) for consistency with our interim *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. ... we find that the final study has addressed and met all ten interim feasibility study criteria.”

National Park Service Review - Feb 2012

Summary of key comments and DPC responses

NPS COMMENT 1) National Importance - The study should identify the one story that makes the landscape nationally important.

DPC Response – In addition to the five themes, an overview was added to describe the Delta's unique geography, location, and point in time at which it was 'discovered', to tell the story of this region which was once a largely uninhabited wetland system, and was shaped and altered through human labor to become a food supplier to an emerging state and later the nation and the world, as well as an economic crossroads for California.

National Park Service Review - Feb 2012

Summary of key comments and DPC responses

NPS COMMENT 2) Resource Inventory - The study should contain a comprehensive inventory of heritage resources that specifically relates to the nationally important story and study themes

DPC Response – Changes were made to Chapter 8, *Supporting Resources*:

1. Section on major resources (waterways, levees, habitats, and farmland).
2. More information to describe specific resources' connections to nationally important story/themes.
3. Additional resources from the *Carquinez Strait Resources Plan*.

National Park Service Review - Feb 2012

Summary of key comments and DPC responses

NPS COMMENT 3) Boundary Description - The study should provide a clear explanation of the proposed heritage area boundary, which should be defined to encompass the resources that tell the nationally important story.

DPC Response –

1. Explanation of the Delta Protection Act of 1992 which identified the Delta as a region of statewide, national, and international significance due to its resources.
2. Additional information on the Suisun Marsh and Carquinez Strait to explain shared histories with Delta.

National Park Service Review - Feb 2012

Summary of key comments and DPC responses

NPS COMMENT 4) Opportunities - The study should discuss the specific regional opportunities for heritage development to meet the proposed heritage area goals.

DPC Response – Chapter 9, *NHA Management*, now includes a section which discusses opportunities, specific to each of the proposed partner entities, to meet the proposed NHA goals.

National Park Service Review - Feb 2012

Summary of key comments and DPC responses

NPS COMMENT 5) Financial Plan - The study should include a three-year financial plan for the proposed coordinating entity.

DPC Response – Chapter 9, *NHA Management*, now includes more information on the DPC's funding capabilities, including specific amounts for the State Budget from FY 2010 to FY 2012. As the DPC is planning to complete the management plan utilizing existing staff resources, no additional costs should need to be incurred.

National Park Service Review - Feb 2012

Summary of key comments and DPC responses

NPS COMMENT 6) Management Entity - The study would benefit from more organizational information about the DPC and affiliated nonprofit organization to help with fundraising.

DPC Response –

1. More information on the DPC's staffing and office space have been included, explaining that the DPC will be fully responsible for the completion of the NHA management plan within the required three years, in coordination with the advisory committees and interested members of the general public.
2. The study now explains that in order to assist with fundraising, matching funds can be raised through interested partner organizations who develop MOUs with the DPC.

Partnerships

- Bay Point Garden Club
- California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau
- California Preservation Foundation
- Delta Counties (Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo)
- Dutra Museum Foundation
- Friends of the Great California Delta Trail
- Isleton Brannan-Andrus Historical Society
- Isleton Chamber of Commerce
- Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council
- UC Small Farm Program
- University of the Pacific
- Visit California

Delta Narratives (UOP)

- Seeks to develop exhibition plan to bring narratives around nodes: reclamation, transportation, community building, and art and literature
- Involvement of scholars, museums, and cultural organizations
- Can provide partner sites for Delta NHA
- In exchange, Delta NHA can provide framework for historical and cultural restoration and strategy for attracting visitors

In Summary

If NHA designation is granted, the Delta NHA will not:

- Grant any power to supersede local decisions
- Include any federal land management or acquisition authority

The Delta NHA will:

- Include opt-out provisions for any property owner within the boundary
- Be locally managed with involvement from project partners, a technical and stakeholder advisory committee, and interested members of the general public